



Colonial Pipeline CR251 Rupture Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama Situation Report #3

November 2, 2016

1700

NRC #1162982

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

On October 31, at 1455 hours, a Colonial Pipeline contractor struck a 36" below ground transmission gasoline pipeline (Line 1) while finishing a permanent repair necessitated by the previous pipeline rupture that occurred on September 9. The gasoline pipeline exploded and caught fire. At 1656 hours, Colonial Pipeline reported the incident to the National Response Center. One worker was fatally injured and six workers were transported to local hospitals.

The exact amount of the release is unknown; however, Colonial Pipeline has estimated that between 3,300 and 4,000 barrels of gasoline were released. Both main pipelines were shut down. The local fire department responded and contained the fire around the ruptured site. The Alabama Forestry Commission and Shelby County Highway Department constructed an earthen berm to contain the gasoline and cut a fire break. The fire continues to burn at this time. Line 2 was restarted at 2250 hours on October 31 at a reduced rate.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Shelby County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Interior (DOI) Region 4, have been notified. EPA, ADEM, Colonial Pipeline, and local emergency responders are on scene and have integrated into the Unified Command (UC).

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- EPA conducted an on-camera interview with various media outlets. The EPA Incident Commander conducted a telephone interview with the Weather Channel. Media interests still remain high. The PIO is currently conducting stand-up interviews with various media outlets. Interviews will continue with media as cleanup milestones are reached.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

EPAs integration into the Colonial Pipeline Incident Command structure will provide numerous benefits to the response and further ensure operations run successfully. This will be accomplished through working directly with the Environmental Unit on sampling and monitoring, the Planning Section, safety, and with overall operations related to this unfortunate incident. All EPA staff, USCG GST and support contractors have embedded into the Colonial incident management structure.

Personnel	Number
EPA	5
USCG GST	4
START	4
Total Response Personnel	approximately 120

CURRENT RELEASE AND RECOVERY ESTIMATES

Current Release Estimate – 3,300 bbl to 4,000 bbls¹

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Situation Reports (SITREPS) will be delivered daily at 1800 hours EST.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

1) Environmental Sampling and Impacts

a. Air Monitoring

- CTEH continued performing 24-hour mobile air monitoring near the homes located northwest of the incident area (near County Road 1, County Road 12, County Road 13, River Road, and Crest Road). Air monitoring results from 0600 hours CST on November 1 through 0600 hours CST on November 2 have indicated no detections above site action levels, except for particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5). Air monitoring results indicated spikes in the PM2.5 community (2.13 mg/m³) and worker (8.56 mg/m³) action levels near the fire along River Road and near the residences located northwest of the incident area. Exceedances were observed following the commencement of woodland fire suppression operations adjacent to the incident area at 1730 hours CDT on November 1.
- Unified Command has approved CTEH's area air sampling plan.

b. Water/Sediment Sampling and National Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA)

- Colonial Pipeline contractor continued preparing a water and sediment sampling plan, as well as, performing a natural resources damage assessment (NRDA).
- Environmental Planning Specialists (EPS) collected collocated water and sediment samples at three locations along the Cahaba River on November 1, and at one location along the Cahaba River, one location along Shades Creek, and at the pond southeast of the incident area.

¹ 1 barrel (bbl) = 42 gallons

- Unified Command has approved the well water survey plan.

2) Local Response Actions

- Local fire personnel monitor the fire as it continues to burn. Due to elevated PM_{2.5} levels near three homes located along River Road, Colonial Pipelines contacted the residents to offer evacuation to hotels. Two of the residents declined the offer and one resident was not contacted due to a recent hospitalization for health issues.
- The air space restriction to 1,500 feet and a 1.5 mile radius around the incident area remains in effect.
- Local fire personnel monitored the fire during the night through the day as it continued to burn.
- OSC Harper, ADEM, and USCG GST confirmed the water drainage pathways from the incident area and determined both pathways lead to man-made ponds with approximately 15 feet of freeboard.
- Colonial will began efforts to evacuate the pipeline and excavate threaded O-rings (TOR). This is the location of the rupture.
- Completed installation of defensive containment boom in the Cahaba River.

3) Health and Safety

- National Transportation Safety Board personnel mobilized to the incident to conduct site incident investigation.

4) Communications

- EPA Superfund Division Director mobilized to the incident to of an on site briefing and to tour site activities.

5) Fuel Supply

- Region 4 is working with EPA Headquarters to address any fuel waiver requests from the impacted States. On November 3, it is anticipated that there will be a fuel waiver granted for a reformulated gas blend.

PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are planned for the next operational period:

- Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) Administrator will be on scene for a site briefing and to tour site activities.
- Continue water and sediment sampling along the Shades Creek as access permits.
- Continue efforts to gain access agreements for well water sampling at residences near the incident area.
- Continue efforts to evacuate gasoline from the pipeline in preparation of repair at the incident site.

- Complete installation of an interceptor trench and underflow dam in the pond southeast of the incident area.
- Continue to conduct air monitoring with personnel from CTEH and the USCG GST. Continue media sampling will be performed by CTEH.



Figure 1.

This image shows the pipeline fire drastically reducing in size.



Figure 2.

Responders at the site.